

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1) An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following on page 1 line 1.

--Cross-Related Applications:

Application 10/586,476 is a national stage entry of PCT/JP05/00641.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please insert in claim 23 before the letters "he" the letter --T--.

Reasons For Allowance

2) The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
Upon review of the currently claimed invention (Claims 9-26) it is the examiner's position that the application has met the conditions for patentability. The closest prior art cited Kiyoshi 593 and Kenji 983 disclose teachings that include the basic cutting and examination of a semiconductor

ingot for its respective oxygen concentration values. As well Holzer (US Patent No. 5,550,374) pertains to a method for measuring interstitial oxygen concentration in single crystal silicon ingots. However none of the prior art solely or in combination provides a reasonable rationale for why the concentration points measured in the ingot would be specifically be taken at predetermined maximum or minimum points with respect to the oxygen concentration values and thus cut at those specific points for sliced wafer fabrication from the ingots.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to G. NAGESH RAO whose telephone number is (571)272-2946. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5PM (INDEPENDENT FLEX SCHEDULE).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Michael KORNAKOV can be reached on (571)272-

1303. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/G. Nagesh Rao/
AU-1714
Patent Examiner